

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Rhu and Shandon Community Council  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
Held in Rhu Community Hall**

In attendance:

Rhu & Shandon CC:

Guests/Public:

<b>Jack Rudram</b>	(JR)	<b>Cllr George Freeman</b>	(GF)
<b>Pat Pollok-Morris</b>	(PPM)	<b>Cllr Robert MacIntyre</b>	(RM)
<b>Jean Cook</b>	(JC)	<b>Cllr Maurice Corry</b>	(MC)
<b>Gordon King</b>	(GK)	<b>Cdr James Leatherby RN</b>	(JL)
<b>Fiona Baker</b>	(FB)	<b>George Wilson</b>	(GW)
<b>Brian Fleming</b>	(BF)	<b>Alastair Moore</b>	(AM)
<b>Olivia Birch</b>	(OB)	<b>Graham Miller</b>	(GM)
<b>Tim Lamb</b>	(TL)	<b>Kenny Trille</b>	(KT)
<b>Jayne Burnett</b>	(JB)	<b>Mandy Campbell</b>	(MCa)
		<b>Chris Lee</b>	(CL)
		<b>Jan Lee</b>	(JLe)
		<b>Alastair MacBeth</b>	(AMc)

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Decision/Action</b>
<b>1. Apologies:</b>	1. Apologies were received from or on behalf of: Ronald Sandeman, Linda Duncan, Jim Duncan, Andrew Nicholson, PC Andy Crawford and Edna Muir.	
<b>2. Declaration of interest.</b>	2. There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>3. Minutes of meeting held 12 February 2014.</b>	3. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2014 were considered.	The minutes were approved <b>(BF &amp; FB)</b> .
<b>4. Matters Arising from minutes.</b>	<b>3c. Scout hut.</b> Oily brown water previously reported at the Scout Hut appears to have been resolved.	Item Closed.
	<b>3e. Japanese Knotweed.</b> Nothing reported.	Ongoing.
	<b>3g. Rhu Bowling Club.</b> A broken window has been reported to both the police and Luss Estates. Vandalism of the site has started which is a concern for the neighbours.	.
	<b>5a. Rhu Marina Masterplan and GSS planning application.</b> Nothing to report.	Ongoing
	<b>7. Peace Camp Structure.</b> GF reminded everyone that this is an excluded item and was ongoing. MC is in contact with Charles Reppke with regard to the legal aspects. JB pointed out that there was an extra caravan	

on the site. There is considerable interest in the activities of the peace camp and the Community Council would like to be kept informed on progress.

GF and MC to pursue.

**13a. Pot Holes.** Pier Road is due to be resurfaced in this coming financial year. Manse Brae has been repaired which has made a vast improvement.

JB was contacted by the Environmental Officer about the provision of a bin at the bus stop at the bottom of Station Road, near the peace camp. Although there were no bins available he accepted that one was needed.

JC to write reminder to council with regard to bin.

**6a. LDP Update.** MC said that Crown Estates need to work with Quay Marinas and had been speaking to Paul Banks but there are no significant developments with the plans. GSS are moving their operations to Silvers yard but the workboats may be staying in Rhu.

In his absence JD submitted the following note to the meeting: The PLDP still awaits the appointment of, and presentation to the Scottish Government Reporter. Once appointed, the Reporter will examine the PLDP along with the recorded objections and make his/her decisions in due course. The Reporter will not consider any new unsolicited representations during his/her consideration however he/she may request further information from relevant parties. The Reporter may even call a public Hearing before making a final decision. The final decision is not expected until late this year.

With regard to the Mini Brief for PDA 3/29, the Community Council are informed that Mark Lodge has confirmed that some work will be done on the mini brief over the summer and that he will be happy to liaise with the Community Council (and other stakeholders) "recognising the importance of the marina facilities to the community".

On behalf of the Community Council JD has kept in touch with Mark and will continue to keep in contact with him to ensure that we are consulted.

**8b. Rosslea Hotel Fireworks.** The Fire Brigade attended, as previously reported, because fireworks were landing in a hedge. Fireworks appear to be part of the 'Wedding Package'. Several residents have complained and have considered notifying the licensing board. The license is renewed every 3 years and these concerns may be taken into account. JR suggested that we should talk to the manager as the hotel is having some success and Community Council should be encouraging such

Action by TL or JR

businesses.

**8a. Car Parking at Play Area.** PPM has spoken to the woman that has been parking inappropriately and concerns are reduced. The neighbourhood watch will continue to monitor.

Item Closed.

**5. Guest Speakers** **5a. Police Report:** AC was unable to attend the meeting but has submitted the following note:

Crime details for the area since the last meeting:

- Theft of a Trailer from RNCYC between 16/3 and 23/3.
- Theft by Housebreaking, Station Rd, Rhu between 04/02 and 16/02.
- Domestic Incident, Shandon 1/3.
- Assault and disorderly conduct, Shandon, 13/2.
- Robbery, Lineside Walk, 1/3. Take away delivery driver assaulted and robbed. Two males aged 16 and 21 yrs. arrested.
- Domestic Incident, Rosslea Hall Hotel. 31/3.

Please be aware of the Housebreaking incident and use this to your advantage, take this opportunity to look at the security of your own home and take any necessary steps to prevent yourself becoming a victim of crime. If you require a FREE security survey get in touch with AC.

Road patrols continue throughout the area, please ensure that you keep your speed down, wear your seatbelt and don't drive whilst on your mobile phone. Not wearing a seatbelt incurs a £100 penalty ticket. Using a mobile phone whilst driving incurs a £100 penalty ticket AND 3 penalty points.

As ever if anything comes up, please email AC, don't wait for the next meeting.

**5b. Cdr James Leatherby:** JL advised that he had little to report, other than the following:

- **Exercise JOINT WARRIOR:** The current one completes on Fri 11 Apr 14) with all but one of the visiting Units which came to the Clyde as it started a fortnight ago going elsewhere. The next such exercise will be smaller and will take place in mid-October.
- **The 'breakwater' in the vicinity of the Rhu Radar Tower:** JL has been assured that the issues raised are being addressed and that surveys etc are in hand. JL concluded with a promise that he would

JL to monitor and report to next meeting

continue to monitor its progress.

- **Clyde Local Liaison Committee (CLLC) Meetings:** JL confirmed that the next of the series of annual CLLC meetings would be held in the Off-site Centre in Rhu, starting at 1400, on Wed 28 May 14 and that invitations had been issued for attendance by the local Community Councils. While the Convenor confirmed that this was the case, he also advised that the Rhu & Shandon attendee had yet to be decided.

## 6. Planning Matters.

**6a. Helensburgh Wind Farm.** It is understood that plans have been submitted for the erection of an anemometer to monitor the wind conditions over about a year to help assess the feasibility of the site. JR had noticed that the proposed site was in the R&SCC area and GF added, in the Lomond North Councillor's ward. The boundaries had changed in 2009 and the current maps have been confirmed as correct by Charles Reppke. All community councils are statutory consultees for these developments. There was a lengthy discussion about the subject involving AMc who recommended that the website [www.helturbines.org](http://www.helturbines.org) should be monitored for the latest information and developments. It was proposed that the CC writes to Helensburgh Renewables to request that they update us on the latest information in an open meeting.

JR to write to Helensburgh Renewables.

### Planning Applications on website.

Removal of watchtower from Blairvaddich, once it was established that this was the tall brown modern structure on the loch side there was no opposition.

Although not in R&S, the Council Offices in the East Clyde Street school are due to complete in Feb 15.

FB reported on the new temporary access track to existing pylons in Glen Fruin in R&S CC area had quite an impact and the CC should perhaps monitor planning applications within LLTTNP which are also in Rhu and Shandon CC area as they will not be on the A&B C list just the LLTTNP Planning Authority list.

JC to post future relevant LLTTNP Planning applications on Community Council Website.

## 7. Conservation Area and Key Environmental Features.

**7. Conservation Area appraisal.** Work continues on the appraisal. FB and JD showed members of the Scottish Civic trust around the area. The R&SCC sub-committee are working with Scottish Civic Trust and developing a template with SCT that can be used by other councils. The team are working on grant applications but need to be aware about being precluded on grounds of being

Ongoing

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part of a larger organisation.

## 8. Broadband

**8. High Speed Broadband.** JC has conducted survey into the internet speeds experienced in Rhu and Shandon. This, along with a letter, was sent to Nigel Stagg (CEO BT), with copies to Alan Reid and Jackie Baillie. The response from Alan Reid and Jackie Baillie is that the upgrade to the Rhu Exchange will not start until January 2016. This date is not guaranteed. Both suggested that lobbying could help. Barry Millar, NGA Programme Manager for BT wrote to JC, in response to the letter, with the information that when Rhu is upgraded to fibre, it will be from Alexandria. Currently Alexandria is 'taking orders' and Helensburgh is 'coming soon', according to the Openreach site RM provided copies of the rollout maps from the Digital Scotland website showing the plans for the upgrading of internet services, which are less than clear.

Request Jackie Ballie to ask for details of funding availability

AM has done some extensive lobbying on behalf of the Community Council and reported that he has been in contact with Colin Cook from Digital Scotland, who said that Scottish Government funding is very limited and the Rhu Exchange is not a priority.

Cook said that there is no agreed funding in place for Helensburgh despite green Fibre cabinets being installed in the area, and it is surprising that Openreach have declared that Helensburgh would be live with Fast Broadband on May 14 this year.

Alan Reid asked the Prime Minister, at question time, if BT were going to produce clear plans for the millions of pounds of the taxpayers money they are getting; the PM's response was that BT has been asked to give more detail about which homes and areas will get Super-Fast Broadband in their rollout plans.

It was agreed that the community should be encouraged to lobby BT by registering on the Digital Scotland Website for "Keep Me in the Loop".

<http://www.digitalscotland.org/newsletter-signup/>

## 9. Beach Cleaning

**9. Beach Cleaning.** JR had spoken to Rhu Marina and they were amenable to remove debris arising from the marina. Since then the pontoons have been removed, although this may have been by A&BC. Areas of the waterfront have been cleaned using the Community Pay Back scheme and others between Thursday and Sunday last week and now the beach is looking much better.

Emails were sent out asking for assistance but, owing to the short notice, there was limited response. There was a discussion about the merits of using mechanical means to disentangle plastic from the seaweed at the high water mark but it was decided that this was done most effectively by hand. Volunteers will be requested from the community for a further beach clean later in the year.

Action JR

On the subject of who is responsible for the area above the high water mark it is believed that The Crown Estates owns some of the foreshore.

GF to advise.

#### **10. Opportunity for members of public to speak.**

**10a. Members of the public.** AM raised the issue of the MOD seeking permission to pour waste into the Gareloch including Cobalt 60 and tritium gas and transporting radioactive waste from Coulport. He said that locals were concerned. CC asked JL to provide a brief on discharges. The subject would be on the agenda of the next Clyde Local Area Liaison Committee meeting.

JL requested to provide brief to the next meeting of the Community Council.

AM also raised the problem that the residents of Church Place had been suffering for the last 10 years from an untaxed car, unused boat and a campervan being left/dumped on the public road. The vehicles are all in poor condition and causing a nuisance and distress to the residents. Previous attempts to resolve this problem have been fruitless.

AM to forward letters from residents to AC.

AM will forward the letters from the residents to AC and JC will write to Dominic Swan, the Environmental Warden to ask for help in resolving the situation

JC will write to Dominic Swann.

#### **11. Treasurers Report.**

**11.** In the absence of the treasurer JC briefed the meeting that the account stood at £1128.71; no change from last meeting.

#### **12. Correspondence**

**12.** Correspondence has been circulated as and when it is received. JC brought two to the attention of the meeting:

1. Application for liquor license for Brae Shop.
2. A letter of congratulations had been sent to the Rosslea Hall hotel for being voted wedding venue of the year.

#### **13. Website and Related Issues**

**13.** The Website continues to be impressive and useful thanks were given to the team.

#### **14. Members' Reports**

**14a.** JB reported that school's spring fair made £2100, £360 on the bike sale.

**14b.** FB said that the gala has the volunteers required to go ahead. She thanked AM for his 'Save Rhu Bay' The Hall Committee are in need of help and will be holding the AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> April. FB/JD to go onto the Hall Committee to represent R&SCC.

**14c. OB.** The water on Cumberland Road is now running freely. OB asked to pursue this with Scottish Water.

Action OB

**14d. JC.** Flood on the old A814 (cycle path/service road) was reported on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, using the dedicated phone line 01546 605514, with a proposed repair deadline of 18<sup>th</sup> March. Due to some confusion, and several blocked drains in the same area, the drain was finally cleared on 9<sup>th</sup> April.

Gerry O'Hare has indicated that he will carry out further investigations. He suspects that at least part of the system will have to be renewed. He will keep us informed.

**14e.** MC asked if there was anything going on for the WW1 commemorations. Nothing has been planned JB will approach the school. MC reminded the meeting that 28<sup>th</sup> June is the National Armed Forces Day; the main event is in Stirling. There will also be an event in Oban on 20<sup>th</sup> October which will be run by the Royal British Legion.

**15. AOB**

**15.** There was no other business.

**16. DONM**

**16a.** The next ordinary meeting will follow the AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in the Community Hall.

**16b.** The AGM will be held at 7:30 pm before the June meeting.